Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Please submit field forms, a copy of a USGS map, and all supporting documentation to the State Botanist at:
Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
Route 135, Westborough MA 01581
(508) 792-7270 Ext. 200

RARE PLANT OBSERVATION FORM

SPECIES SCIENTIFIC NAME:_____ **Element Occurrence No**., if known: _____

Observation Date:_____ **Today's Date**:_____ **Population Found?** Yes____ No ____

Observed By:_____ **Other Observers**: _____

Observer's Address: _____

Observer's Email Address: _____ **Telephone**: _____

Photograph Taken? Yes____ No____ (if yes, please attach, and label back with your name, date taken, and the location)

Specimen Collected? Yes____ No____ Collection # _____ Repository: _____

Site Name (informal):_____ **USGS Topo Name**: _____

County:_____ **Town**:_____

Directions to the rare plant population (if found), or search area (if not found). **Mark the location on a copy of the USGS topo map.**

_____

_____

_____

GPS Coordinates*:* System used (circle one): UTM Lat-Long Mass. State Plane Datum: _____

At, or near, the center of the population: _____ _____

or:

Least-rectangle (i.e., the coordinates delimiting the north, east, south, and west corners of the population):

North _____ _____ East _____ _____ South_____ _____ West_____ _____

Has the full extent of the population been determined? (check one) ___ yes; ___no ; ___ uncertain whether full extent is known
Identification Problems? Yes____ No ____ **Explain:** _____
Diagnostic Characters used: _____**Reference used:** _____
Do other members of the genus or look-alike plants occur at this site? Yes____ No ____
Explain: _____

Population Data

Approximate Area Occupied by the Population (circle appropriate unit): _____ sq. meters hectares sq. feet sq. yards acres
Population Size:

Total number of "genets" (i.e., genetically distinct, or clearly separate individuals): _____ (Precise count *or* estimate?)

and/or

Total number of "ramets" (e.g., stems or shoots arising from clones): _____ (Precise count *or* estimate?)

Population Structure (check all that apply):

Age Classes Present	Reproductive Condition of the Population on this Date	
____ Seedlings	____ Vegetative (in leaf)	____ Mature fruit
____ Immature plants	____ In bud	____ Seed dispersing
____ Mature plants	____ In flower	____ Senescent
____ Plants of unknown age	____ Immature fruit	____ Dormant

How would you characterize the vigor of this population? Excellent Good Fair Poor

Evidence of Disease, Predation, or Injury?_____**Pollinators:** _____

Environmental Setting

Describe the plant community and list the associated species:_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

List any exotic plant species present, and discuss their possible impacts:_____

_____

Describe evidence of natural or human-caused disturbance (including changes in ecological processes) **and effects on population**:

_____

_____

Surrounding Land Use:_____

Elevation: _____ ft. or m? **Soil Type(s)**: _____

Surficial Geology: _____ **Bedrock Geology**:_____

Circle Appropriate Habitat Descriptors:

Landform/Topography	Aspect ___°	Slope ___%	Light	Soil Moisture Regime	Important Ecological Processes
summit/crest	N NE	flat	open	xeric	seasonal or regular flooding
upper slope	E SE	gentle	filtered	dry	groundwater seepage
mid slope	S SW	average	shade	mesic	colluvial processes
lower slope	W NW	rather steep		wet	alluvial processes
rolling terrain/plain	flat/variable	steep		inundated	wind/salt spray
flood plain/terrace		very steep			erosion
wetland		abrupt			fire
shore/pond/lake/stream					none apparent

Describe Microhabitat Conditions:_____

Conservation Information

Land Owned/Managed by:

Name(s) Address Telephone

_____

_____

Managed Area Name: _____ **Contact Person:** _____

Owner Comments:_____

What additional factors might potentially threaten the population? _____

_____

What are your recommendations for future inventory, monitoring, research, and/or management? _____

_____

What are your protection recommendations? _____

Additional Comments:

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

For office use only: *Relative Size: _____ Relative Condition: _____ Relative Landscape Context: _____ MA EO Rank: _____*

MA EO Rank Comments: _____

Global EO Rank: _____ Global EO Rank Comments: _____

Sketch:
Use this space to draw or diagram useful information about the rare plant occurrence, such as its location relative to landmarks and habitat features. Consider depicting, for instance, a vertical cross section of a population's position on a ledge or slope, or how a population is distributed in clumped patches in the habitat relative to boulders, stone walls, brooks, trees, etc.

Please:

Don't forget to attach a copy of a USGS topo map indicating the location of the rare plants or the search area!

Mark the location of the rare plants as precisely as possible, and label with the map source, date and species name.